Apart from the above Government has decided to earmark 10 per cent of the budget for development of North-Eastern States including Sikkim. Accordingly a provision of Rs. 120.50 crore has also been made in the budget of this Ministry for the Housing and Urban Development Scheme of North-Eastern States including Sikkim.

The State Governments have been requested to submit project proposals for sanction. So far this Ministry has sanctioned 9 projects for an amount of Rs. 27.95 crore out of which Rs. 14.64 crore have been released in the current year i.e. 2001-2002.

(d) and (e) North-Eastern States are very sensitive from the earthquake point of view as the whole region lies in most severe Seismic Zone-V. The earthquake zones of various towns and cities of North-Eastern States as per IS 1813 are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland in Zone V and the Sikkim is in Zone IV.

This Ministry had taken several initiatives for propagating the earthquake resistant housing construction practices in the country. All the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been addressed from time to time to bring in necessary modifications in their respective building bye-laws and regulations, land use zoning, development control rules and towns and country planning acts based on the recommendations of the Expert Group set up for this purpose by Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation.

Infrastructure status to housing sector

125. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENTAND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give infrastructure industry status to housing sector to encourage FDI in the sector through more liberal norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.